

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is of the following type:

- ☒ original
- ☐ divisional
- ☐ continuation
- ☐ continuation-in-part

**INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION**

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**An Apparatus and Method for Facilitating the  
Connection of Tubulars Using a Top Drive**

**SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION**

The specification of which:

- ☐ is filed herewith
- ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_, under Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, executed on even date herewith; or
- ☐ Express Mail No.(as Serial No. not yet known) and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)
- ☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/GB99/03944 filed on 29 November 1999

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, and which is material to the examination of this application; namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent.

- ☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98.

**PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §119)**

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119, of any provisional or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any provisional or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

- ☐ No such applications have been filed.
- ☒ Such applications have been filed as follows:

**A. Prior foreign/PCT application(s) filed within 12 mos. (6 mos. for design) prior to this application, and any priority claims under 35 USC §119**

<u>Country/PCT</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**B. All foreign application(s), if any, filed more than 12 mos. (6 mos. for design) prior to this U.S. application**

<u>Country/PCT</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
GB	9828669.3	24/12/98

**C. U.S. Provisional Application filed within 12 months prior to this application**

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
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**PRIORITY CLAIM (35 USC §120)**

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120, of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application (namely, information where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

- ☒ No such applications have been filed.
- ☐ Such applications have been filed, as follows:

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Patented</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Abandoned</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

B. Todd Patterson	Registration No. 37,906
Raymond R. Moser, Jr.	Registration No. 34,682
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### DECLARATION

*I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Sec. 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.*

Full name of sole or first inventor: Bernd-Georg Pietras

Inventor's signature: Bernd-Georg Pietras

Date: Laurenzhausen, 17.7.2001

Residence:

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NOVEMBER 08, 2001

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

RECORDATION DATE: 09/04/2001

REEL/FRAME: 012139/0910  
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BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

PIETRAS, BERND-GEORG

DOC DATE: 07/27/2001

ASSIGNEE:

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SERIAL NUMBER: 09868438  
PATENT NUMBER:

FILING DATE: 09/04/2001  
ISSUE DATE:

JOANN STEWART, EXAMINER  
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS